JUNI TAISEN:
ZODIAC WAR
Manga by
Akira Akatsuki
Based on the novel by
NISIOISIN
Character designs by
HIKARU
NAKAMURA
CHAPTER ONE
THE TWELVE

BOOM!
THWIK
THWIK
THWIK
THWIK

SHUCK

THE ZODIAC WAR IS HELD ONCE EVERY TWELVE YEARS.
WSH!
TWELVE FIERCE WARRIORS TAKE ON THE NAMES OF THE ZODIAC...

KAYOOOO
GRIP

...AND STAKE THEIR LIVES AND SOULS IN A FORMAL BATTLE TO THE DEATH.

THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THIS BATTLE...
...IS GRANTED ONE WISH— ANY WISH— OF THEIR CHOOSING.
THM
THM
THM
THM

DOOM
TH- CITY'S COM- PLETELY DARK

...THEY'D WIPE OUT A CITY OF 500,000 PEOPLE...
THE TWELFTH ZODIAC WAR...
TO THINK THAT FOR THE SAKE OF THIS TOURNAMENT...
THAT ALONE DEMONSTRATES THE ZODIAC WAR'S REACH.
...SHE IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, ONE OF THE TOP CONTENDERS.
WITH HER PREDECESSOR AS THE PREVIOUS CHAMPION ...
IT SEEMS ONE WARRIOR HASN'T ARRIVED YET.

SWF
INŌNO-SHISHI, THE FIGHTER OF THE BOAR!

AISHŪ AND INOCHIGOI— "LOST LOVE" AND "NO MERCY."
ゴ゛ ゴ゛ ゴ゛
HER WEAPONS OF CHOICE ARE TWO MACHINE GUNS.
ゴ゛ ゴ゛ ゴ゛
VWOOOM
CLANK
TD
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TD
TD
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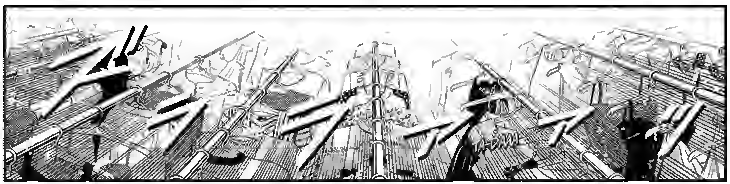
TD

REAL NAME, TOSHIKO INŌ. BORN ON APRIL 4.
SHE'S 176 CENTIMETERS TALL AND WEIGHS 60 KILOGRAMS.
SHE IS THE HEIRESS OF A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY WITH A HISTORY THAT GOES BACK OVER THREE CENTURIES.
SHE HAS A FATHER, A MOTHER AND AN OLDER SISTER.
THE BOAR ALWAYS ARRIVES LAST.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO UPSET TRADITION AFTER ALL.

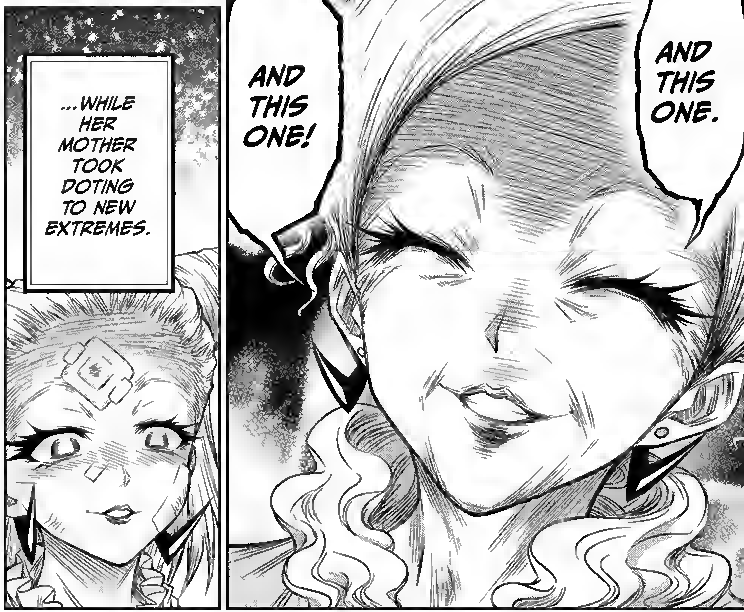
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
CLICK
CLICK
HUFF
HUFF
CRASH
BOOM
KRATAT
THUD
BLAM!
BLAM!

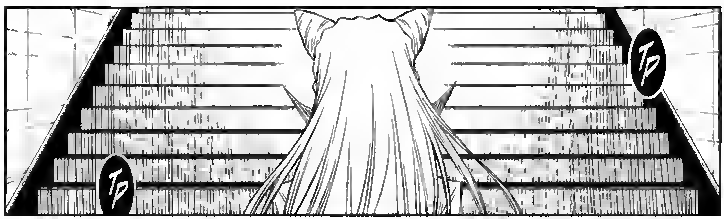
!!
SMASH
KRAK
THUD
SKSHHH
THUNK

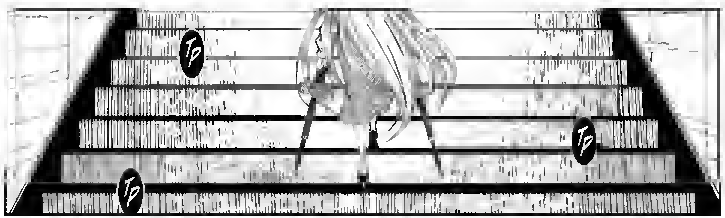
HER FATHER'S PARENTING STYLE WAS SO SEVERE SOME WOULD CALL IT CRUEL AND ABUSIVE...
ALWAYS KEEP YOUR HANDS FREE! ON A BATTLEFIELD, YOU NEED TO BE READY TO REACT QUICKLY!
DAM
BAM!



THIS COLOR LOOKS GREAT ON YOU.
OH, AND SO DOES THIS ONE.
AND THIS ONE TOO.


...WHILE HER MOTHER TOOK DOTING TO NEW EXTREMES.
AND THIS ONE!
AND THIS ONE.





AND MOTHER ...
FATHER ...
...I WILL ALWAYS ACT WITH ELE-GANCE.
TO BE THE MOST PREPARED, I WILL ALWAYS KEEP MY WEAPONS IN HAND.
.. SHE LEARNED HOW TO APPEASE THEM BOTH IN EQUAL MEASURE.
RAISED BY PARENTS WHO PULLED HER IN OPPOSITE DIREC-TIONS...

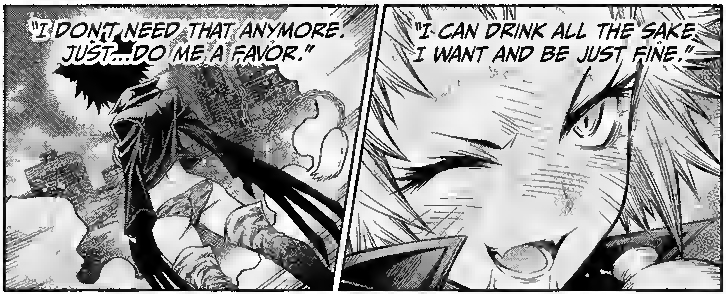
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

GOOD EVENING, EVERY-ONE.
I TRUST YOUR WAIT HAS BEEN PLEASANT.
I AM BOAR.

EVERY-ONE'S HERE.
I DOUBT ANY OF THESE WARRIORS WILL BE INTIMIDATED BY MY MACHINE GUNS.
OH WELL.
MORE FAMILIAR FACES HERE THAN I EXPECTED.

USHII, THE FIGHTER OF THE OX...
...WHO JUST KILLS.
"I ASSUME THIS MEANS YOU WON'T MIND FACING MORE THAN ONE OPPONENT."
"DON'T WORRY. I WON'T LET YOU DIE!!"

...WHO KILLS WITH DRUNKEN POWER.
TORA, THE FIGHTER OF THE TIGER...


"I DON'T NEED THAT ANYMORE. JUST...DO ME A FAVOR."
"I CAN DRINK ALL THE SAKE I WANT AND BE JUST FINE."

"WE CAN DO THIS! WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE END!"
...WHO KILLS BY PECKS.
NIWATORI, THE FIGHTER OF THE CHICKEN...

"I'M GLAD THAT WE'RE ABLE TO HAVE A REAL CONVER-SATION."
SHARYŪ, THE FIGHTER OF THE MONKEY...
...WHO KILLS IN PEACE.
"FOR EVERY GREAT POWER, THERE IS A CORRECT WAY TO USE IT."
HITSUJII, THE FIGHTER OF THE SHEEP...
...WHO KILLS WITH DECEP-TION.

...WHO KILLS IN BITES.
DOKKU, THE FIGHTER OF THE DOG...
"WITH MY SPECIAL POWER, I CAN MANIPULATE QUANTUM TUNNELS AT WILL AND ENABLE OBJECTS OF MY CHOOSING TO PASS THROUGH SOLID MATTER."
"STEADY YOURSELF. CONTROL IT."
"MY BROTHER IS CERTAINLY BEING PUT TO GOOD USE."
...WHO KILL FOR MONEY.
THE TATSUMI BROTHERS, FIGHTERS OF THE DRAGON AND THE SNAKE...

"..."
...WHO KILLS IN SILENCE.
UUMA, THE FIGHTER OF THE HORSE...
"IF WE DON'T GET SOME LIGHT IN HERE, I'M GONNA FALL ASLEEP."
...WHO KILLS INEXOR-ABLY.
NEZUMI, THE FIGHTER OF THE RAT...
AND THE LAST TO ARRIVE...

INŌNO-SHISHI, THE FIGHTER OF THE BOAR...
...WHO KILLS IN ABUN-DANCE.
THE MOOD IS OPPRESSIVELY HEAVY IN HERE.
...EVEN CONSIDERING THE IMMINENT BATTLE TO THE DEATH.
DOOOOM

!!
A SEVERED HEAD ?!
THAT'S ...

...HE GOT HIMSELF KILLED BEFORE WE EVEN STARTED.
LOOKS LIKE ONE FIGHTER WAS SO CARELESS...
OH? WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
ニ!!
2CM
ニ!!
2CM
ニ!!
2CM
ニ!!
2CM
ニ!!
2CM
PLIP ボタ
PLIP ボタ
HOW CAN THIS BE?
WHO COULD'VE DONE IT?

USAGI, THE FIGHTER OF THE RABBIT...
...WHO KILLS WITH DISTINCTION.
DON

I DIDN'T DO IT. IT WASN'T ME.
DON'T GO ACCUSING ANYONE...
...WHEN YOU DON'T GOT ANY PROOF!
SNIF
SNIF
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT BLOOD-DRENCHED BLADE...
...IS PROOF ENOUGH...
WELCOME, FIGHTERS.

NOW THAT EVERYONE HAS ARRIVED...
...WE SHALL COMMENCE...
!!
...THE TWELFTH ZODIAC WAR.

EVERY-
BODY!
CLAP
YOUR
HANDS
!!
パチ
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
パチ
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CLAP

パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
I AM DUODECUPLE, AND I'VE BEEN GIVEN THE HONOR OF BEING THE REFEREE FOR THIS GREAT BATTLE.
I'M PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCES.
!!
ZUZUZU
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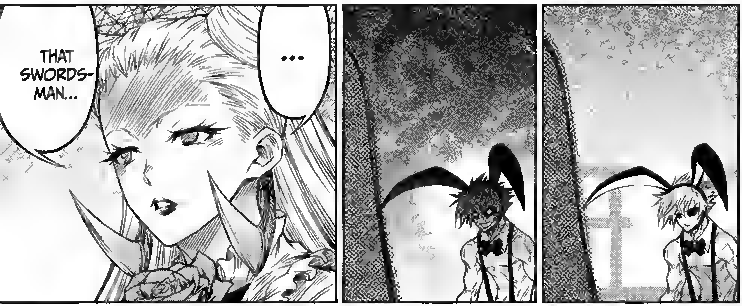
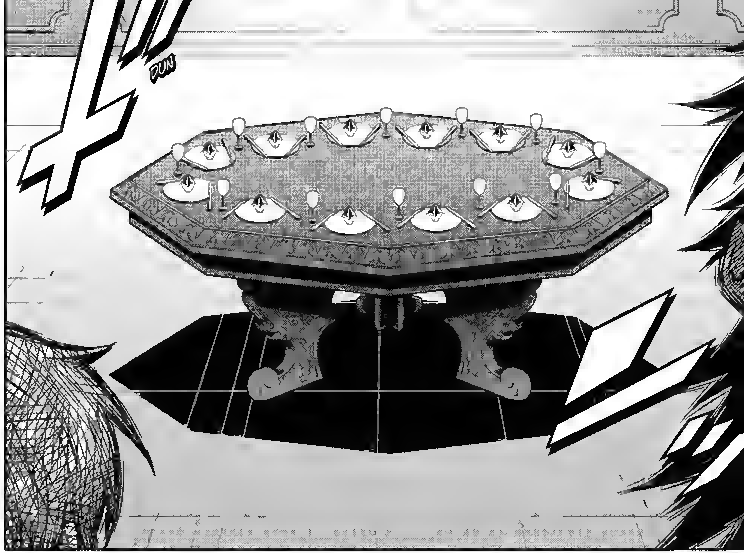
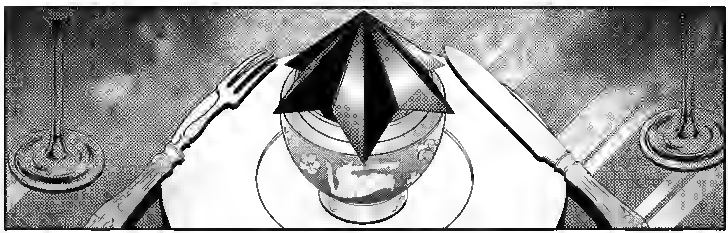
THIS MAN HERE IS NAVI.
HE'S GOING TO BE REPORTING ON THIS TOURNAMENT. DON'T PAY HIM ANY MIND.


...
THAT SWORDS-MAN...

IF YOU PLEASE, DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO THE CENTRAL TABLE...
WITHOUT ANY FURTHER ADO, LET'S GO OVER THE RULES, SHALL WE?
...WHO DETERMINES FRIEND AND FOE ACCORDING TO WHOM HE CAN AND CANNOT KILL.
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S THE TYPE ...


RUN



EVERY-ONE, PLEASE TAKE ONE JEWEL APIECE...
.. AND SWALLOW THEM— WITHOUT BITING INTO THEM, MIND YOU.
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO SWALLOW JEWELS THAT BIG?!

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SHF
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SHF
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SHF
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SHF
ザワ
SHF

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OOM

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SLRP
れろ
SLRRRPPP
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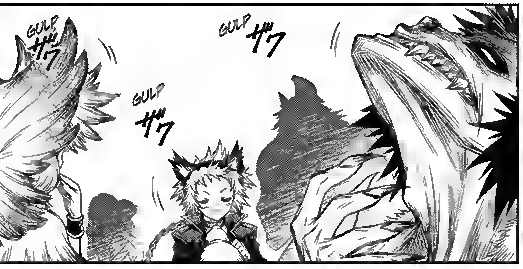
NGH
HNGH
ぱっ
SHLK
GULP
GULP

はあああ
あああ
GRGL


GULP ザワ
GULP ザワ
GULP ザワ

BUT...
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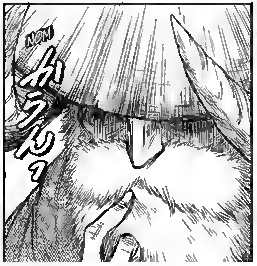
GLANCE

SHUP えろお


GUNI ムラムラ

...THEY'RE EACH FOLLOWING TO THE LETTER THIS OLD MAN'S INSTRUC-TIONS,
WHAT SURPRISES ME IS THAT, WITH ALL THESE FIGHTERS AND ALL THEIR APPARENT PECULIARI-TIES...

...HOW MAJOR AN EVENT THIS ZODIAC WAR IS.
THAT JUST GOES TO SHOW...

ZZZZ
ZZZZ
HOW-EVER, THAT BOY...

IF NOBODY WAKES HIM UP...
...HE'LL LOSE VIA FORFEIT.
STILL REFUSING TO MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, I SEE...
...YOU MEDDLE-SOME MONKEY.
HEY, MR. JUDGE GUY.
SINCE MY BROTHER'S JEWEL IS LEFT OVER...

...
THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH MY TAKING IT, IS THERE?
!!!
STARE

...THOSE CRIMINALS, THE TATSUMI BROTHERS?
COULD THEY BE...
THAT FACE... WERE THEY TWINS?

THEY'RE A KIND OF CRYSTALIZED POISON.
NOW THEN, ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN WHAT THOSE JEWELS ARE.
HOW ABOUT THAT? SCORE! ♪
PLEASE, BY ALL MEANS. TAKE IT.

WE CALL THEM BEAST GEMS.
WHEN INGESTED BY A HUMAN, THEY UNDERGO A UNIQUE CHEMICAL REACTION WITH GASTRIC ACID...
...AND BECOME FATAL IN ROUGHLY TWELVE HOURS.
YAWN
ふぁ——

MY APOLOGIES, BUT ONCE SWALLOWED, THE JEWELS CANNOT BE REGURGI-TATED.
...
THEY'RE ALL SO CALM ABOUT THIS.
NOW THAT THAT'S OUT OF THE WAY, LET'S GO OVER THE BASIC RULES.
THE RULES HAVE BEEN SIMPLIFIED THIS TIME AROUND.
THE ELEVENTH ZODIAC WAR GOT A LITTLE OVERLY COMPLICATED ..
. AND WE'RE NOT ABOVE RECOGNIZ-ING WHEN WE'VE MADE A MISTAKE

THE FIGHTER WHO COLLECTS ALL TWELVE JEWELS WILL BE THE VICTOR...
...AND WILL BE GRANTED A SINGLE WISH.
ANY WISH AT ALL.

QUESTION.
IF WE'VE ALL TAKEN POISON, DOESN'T THAT MEAN THAT, WIN OR LOSE, WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE?
YOU NEED NOT BE CONCERNED.
THE VICTOR WILL BE PROVIDED THE ANTIDOTE. CONSIDER IT A BONUS PRIZE.

THAT'S NOT THE REAL ISSUE ...
YOU SAID THE JEWELS REACT TO STOMACH ACID...
DOES THAT MEAN THEY'LL DISSOLVE IN OUR STOM-ACHS?
YES. THE EXACT RATE OF ABSORPTION WILL VARY SLIGHTLY FROM PERSON TO PERSON, BUT THE PROCESS IS ONE-WAY AND ABSOLUTE
AS THE TIME LIMIT APPROACHES, THE JEWELS WILL BEGIN TO SHRINK, AND THEY'LL EVENTUALLY DISAPPEAR.
...
MIGHT I ADD ANOTHER QUESTION?
CERTAINLY. GO AHEAD.
WORK! ひよこ
WORK! ひよこ

HE'S PRACTICALLY A LEGEND. I HALF EXPECTED HIM TO BE DEAD BY NOW.
...
THE FIGHTER OF THE SHEEP
...WHAT HAPPENS THEN?
GRIN
IF I UNINTENTIONALLY DESTROY A JEWEL...
TO BE PERFECTLY CANDID...
...I'VE COME PREPARED TO UTILIZE SOME HIGH EXPLOSIVES.
THAT'S JUST WHAT I DESPISE ABOUT HIM.
A CRAFTY PLOY FROM A VETERAN CONNIVER.
THEY COULD EASILY SHATTER SUCH JEWELS.
BUT I COULD ASK THE SAME ABOUT MY MACHINE GUNS.

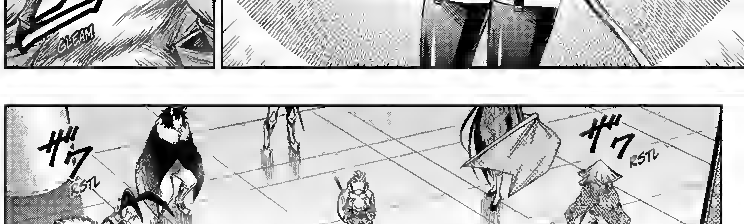
NOTHING ELSE CAN HARM THEM— NO MATTER HOW DESTRUCTIVE THE PHYSICAL FORCE MAY BE.
HAVE NO FEAR. THE JEWELS WILL ONLY REACT WITH FRESH HUMAN STOMACH ACID.
...YOU MAY TEST IT FOR YOUR-SELF.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE...
GLARE
YOUR WORD IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
NO, NO. THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.
WORRY
ひよこ
...

I HAVE ONE LAST QUESTION.
WE'VE ALL PUT THESE DURABLE LITTLE GEMS...
...IN-TO OUR BODIES.
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO COLLECT THEM NOW?
...
I'LL LEAVE THE METHOD UP TO YOUR OWN ABILITIES AND JUDGMENTS...
SNIP
...BUT IF I MAY OFFER A SUGGESTION ...
STUNCH!

SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
SPLAT
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
I WOULD THINK SLITTING OPEN THE STOMACH...
...TO BE THE SIMPLEST SOLUTION.
GLORP
SHK
...

YOU ARE ALL WORLD-CLASS FIGHTERS...
SNIF
...TENACIOUS AND RESILIENT. MAY YOU FIND THE VICTORY YOU SEEK.
EVERY-ONE, MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTEN-TION?
I HAVE A PROPOS-AL!

UNDER THE RULES OF THIS ZODIAC WAR, NONE OF US NEED TO DIE...
...AS LONG AS WE ALL COOPERATE.
CAN I COUNT ON ANYONE TO COOPERATE?
GHEM


PSTL
PSTL
PSTL

THAT MON-KEY...
TCH
IT'S JUST LIKE HER TO PITCH SUCH A SIMPLE IDEA AS IF IT WERE SOMETHING BRILLIANT.
SHE MUST WANT US TO THROW THE FIGHT AND AGREE ON A WINNER WHO WILL WISH TO BRING EVERYONE ELSE BACK TO LIFE.

SWOOP
すー
...ON SOMETHING SO FRIVOLOUS AS REVIVING THE OTHERS.
AS IF ANYONE WOULD WASTE A PRECIOUS WISH...
THIS IS UTTERLY RIDICULOUS.
...THAN TO GET THROUGH THIS... WITHOUT ANYONE DYING.
I'D LIKE NOTHING BETTER...
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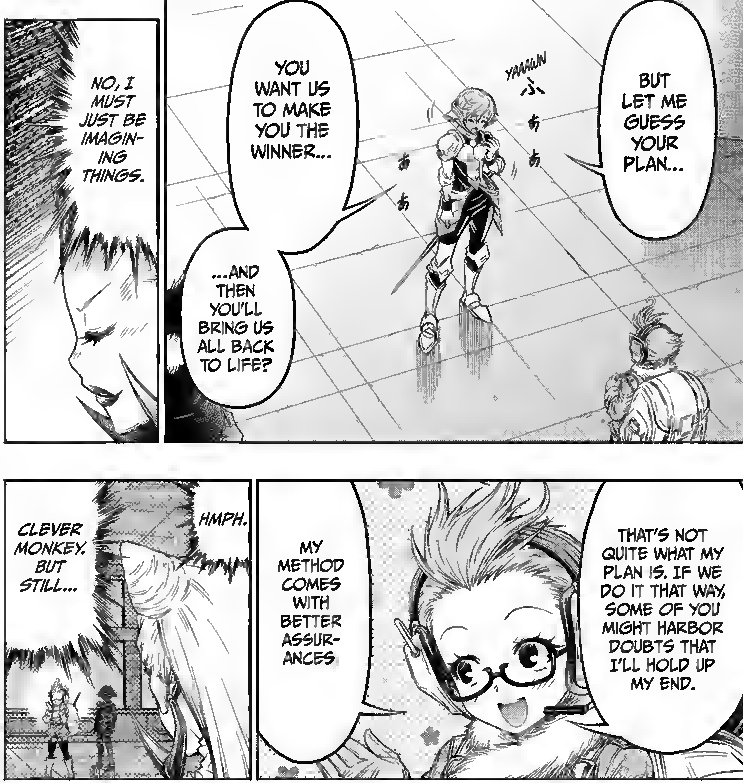
I'M IN.
WHERE HAVE I HEARD IT BEFORE?
HIS VOICE...
STARE
ジロリ


NO, I MUST JUST BE IMAGINING THINGS.
YOU WANT US TO MAKE YOU THE WINNER...
...AND THEN YOU'LL BRING US ALL BACK TO LIFE?
YAMAUN
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BUT LET ME GUESS YOUR PLAN...
CLEVER MONKEY, BUT STILL...
HMPH.
MY METHOD COMES WITH BETTER ASSURANCES
THAT'S NOT QUITE WHAT MY PLAN IS. IF WE DO IT THAT WAY, SOME OF YOU MIGHT HARBOR DOUBTS THAT I'LL HOLD UP MY END.
SHIF
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SHIF
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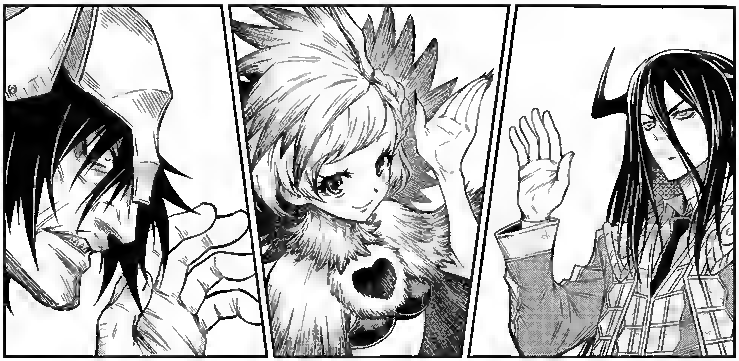
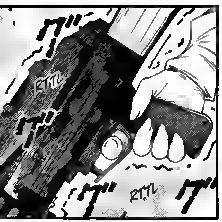
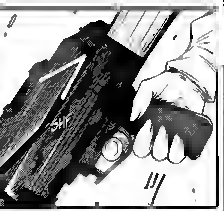
"
SHIF



I NEED TO STOP THIS. I CAN'T ALLOW SUCH A POWERFUL ALLIANCE TO FORM IN A BATTLE ROYALE...
UGH... THIS IS BAD.

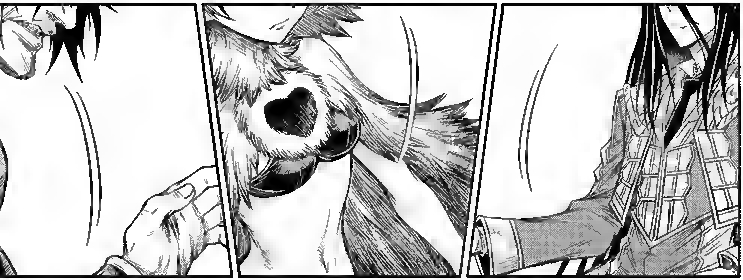
ONE MORE AND THEY'LL HAVE THE MAJORITY...
...

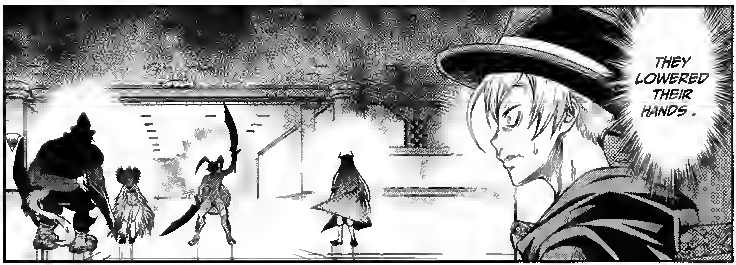

ZIIIII...
ZIIIII...


SHIT

THE FIGHTER OF THE OX, THE NATURAL-BORN SLAYER.
EVEN WORSE, AMONG THEM IS MY STRONGEST RIVAL HERE...

BUT PLUNGING THIS ROOM INTO CHAOS...
...WOULD NOT BE GRACEFUL.
BOOM!




THEY LOWERED THEIR HANDS.

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT GUY.
BUT EVEN I CAN SEE WHY.

ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU!
I'M JUST HAPPY THAT TWO OTHER PEACE SEEKERS ARE HERE!
EVERYONE ELSE—IF YOU EVER CHANGE YOUR MIND, YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME TO SEEK ME OUT.
NOW, IF YOU BOTH WOULD COME HERE...

!!
ギ
ギ
ギ
ギ
ギ
DOOM

BOOOOM

I DON'T KNOW WHO BROKE APART THE FLOOR, BUT WHOEVER IT IS...
...I'D BEST BE ON MY GUARD.
EITHER THEY HAVE SOME SUPER-HUMAN POWER...
...OR...
DASH
THM
THM
THM
THM
TAP
THM

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
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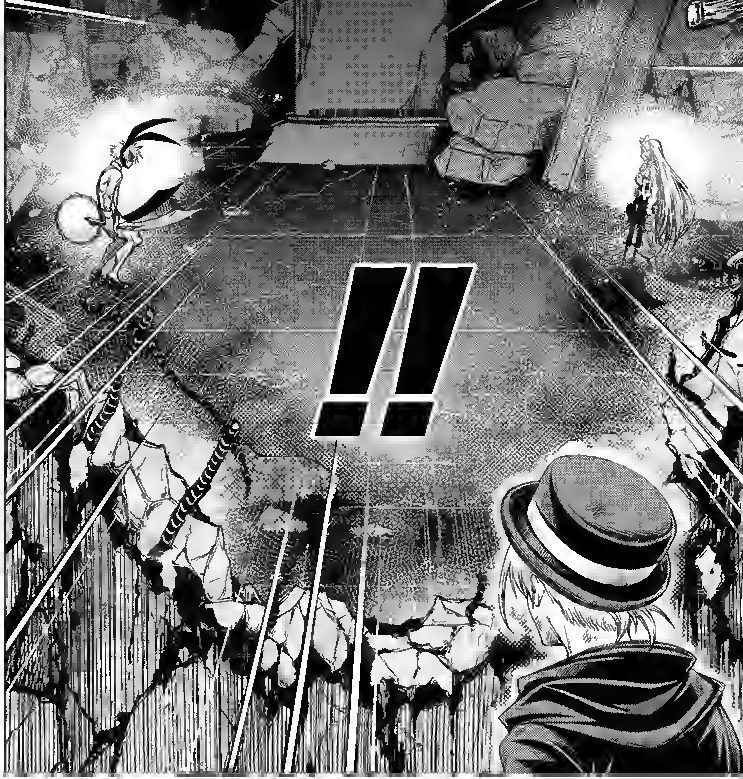
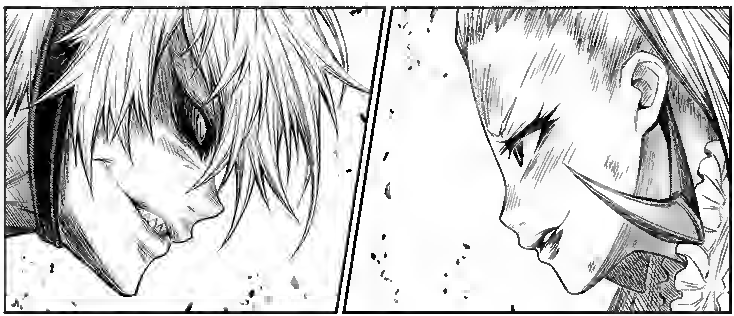
ゴッ
CHOCO
I STILL WANT THAT MONKEY'S MY FIRST KILL.
BUT...
REGARDLESS, I'M GLAD SOMEBODY STOPPED TEAM MONKEY BEFORE IT GOT OFF THE GROUND.

I'LL FINALLY RID MYSELF OF THAT WOMAN...
...AND HER INCOMPRE-HENSIBLE BELIEF IN PEACE.
IT LOOKS LIKE EVERY-ONE'S..
...DECIDED TO HIDE.
SWIT
SWIT
KLAK
KLAK





I COULD HAVE STARTED WITH ANYONE, YOU KNOW? WOULDN'T MATTER TO ME.
BUT YOU FALSELY ACCUSED ME, YOU SEE... AND WITHOUT A SHRED OF PROOF.
AND YET YOU ACCUSED ME ANYWAY? IT MAKES ME WONDER...

WHERE'S YOUR HUMANITY?

...
PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME DO THIS.
I REALLY DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE THIS WAY.
HE CARRIES SUCH A PECULIAR AURA IT'S HARD TO GET A GOOD READ ON HIM—BUT I CAN TELL HE CAN FIGHT.
I HAD HOPED TO LET MY STRONGER ADVERSARIES BATTLE IT OUT AMONG THEMSELVES FIRST...
LIKE AGAINST OX
OR BETTER STILL, MONKEY

...BUT NOW YOU'VE CHOSEN YOUR DEATH.
I TRULY WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO FIGHT YOU SO SOON...
YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE..

...BEGINS!
THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE ZODIAC WAR...

I AM INŌNO-SHISHI, THE FIGHTER OF THE BOAR.
I KILL IN ABUN-DANCE!

I AM *USAGI*, THE FIGHTER OF THE *RABBIT*.
GRR!
I KILL WITH *DISTINC-TION*.